



Farm Topics

Hormone Treatment Of Potatoes Advised
Storage Application Retards Sprout Growth

The plant hormone, methyl ester of alpha-naphthaleneacetic acid, was found by Thomas and Riker, University of Wisconsin, to be effective to keep potatoes from sprouting in storage, even at ordinary room temperatures.

The chemical can be employed in various ways, dusts or

Figure 1 shows untreated potato, Figure 2, potato treated with plant hormone.

The tubers. The dust and shroud methods gave the best results. Treatment should be made in the spring shortly before the advent of warm weather, before the tubers break dormancy and begin to sprout. This retarding of the sprouts will extend the local selling season of potatoes, even after the spring weather has warmed the storage bins.

Potatoes free from late blight, rot, rust, and other types of rot organisms only should be selected for hormone treatment. The amount of the chemical to be used should be approximately 1.35 grams of the methyl ester of alpha-naphthaleneacetic acid per bushel of tubers.

Handy Milk Stool
Leather Belt

Made from 2 by 4's and equipped with leather belt that keeps the stool in place, this type of stool proves of special value to strippers. The stool is always in place and needs no handling once it is adjusted. This results in a decided sanitary advantage.

Improved Equipment
Pest Control

Cow taking self-treatment with cattle pest control machine. This can be stationary or movable.

The cattle pest control, manufactured by the Automatic Equipment Manufacturing Company of Pender, Neb., used for the control of grubs, lice, flies, ticks, mange and other vermin. Medicated dip or powder is released upon the animal by a patented dispenser and rubbed into the hair and hide by the user.

Feed Salt to Hogs
Experiments conducted at Purdue university proved definitely that economical reasons, hogs should never be allowed to go hungry for salt. Block or loose salt or a simple mineral mixture should be provided.

The experiments showed that hogs supplied with a plentiful supply of salt averaged 250 pounds after 80 days, while those without salt averaged 175 pounds in that time. The feeding of one pound of salt saved \$6.67 in feed.

Peiping, China, Picture

Covering an area of about 25 square miles in Peiping, China, is really three cities within a city, all walled—one within the other—says the National Geographic Society. The first city, called Tientsin, was built by the Chinese. The innermost part, Kin-Ching, was the Forbidden City to all but the emperor and his family. From the 34-foot wide wall of the Tatar wall, the best view of the entire city can be had—a panorama of incredible richness and variety, with a strange and oriental beauty, crowds and huge walls, flimsy hovels amid shining temples and palaces. Below can be heard the screech of street cars, the cry of hawkers and remnants of a free city, a strange scene of passing members of camel caravans and street merchants.

Below the wall, the population is fluctuating constantly due to the large groups of tourists and members of foreign diplomatic corps and armies stationed in Peiping. Only buildings of modern architecture were those of the legation quarters which were in great contrast to the oriental masses of temples and palaces in the Forbidden City. Small streets are often narrow and foul-smelling with rows of small one or two-story buildings on either side. The main streets are macadamized, and in winter have a layer of sand. Street cars, pedestrians, camel trains from the Gobi desert, bicycles, autos and animals being brought to market. The busy shopping district was a maze of stores and book stalls. Only pointed and pointed signs in the breeze over curio shops where the stacks of hanging tapestries' voices could be heard.

DDT Perfect Answer
To Bedbug Problem

DDT, the new insecticide, is the perfect answer to the bedbug problem, says the department of agriculture. If DDT is applied properly as a 5 per cent dust, it will kill 95 per cent powder to mattresses, beds and chicken houses, these places will be free from bedbugs for six months or more.

One and one-half ounces of DDT solution of technical grade DDT and one gallon of kerosene—is used, about three liquid ounces of the spray will treat a full-sized bed. The material should be applied to the mattress, pillows, springs and joints in the bed frame. It is important to force the spray into each joint of the bed and lightly treat both sides of the mattress. After the bed has dried a few hours, it can be used without fear of injury to the occupant.

One and one-half ounces of 10 per cent DDT powder is enough to treat a full-sized bed. It is necessary to treat the walls, because the bed bugs are killed when they come to the bed for meals of blood. It is advisable, USDA entomologists say, to wear a mask in applying.

Freight Loss
Freight loss and damage payments made by the railroads of the United States and Canada in 1943 totaled \$55,756,336, an increase of 42.1 per cent over the preceding year. Total claims payments by American railroads last year amounted to 0.82 per cent of the gross freight revenue, compared with 0.59 per cent in 1942. Three of the Canadian roads were 0.36 per cent of the revenue, the same ratio in 1942. For many years, the railroads have pressed against freight loss and damage. As a result of better methods of packing, loading and handling of shipments, freight claims paid in 1944 were only about half what they were in 1920, although the railroads performed nearly double the freight service that they did 25 years ago.

'Seeing' the Invisible
Although nobody has ever seen an atom it is possible for the human eye to learn a lot about atoms through ingenious optical and other instruments, according to the Bell Telephone Institute. Microscopes magnify objects up to about 4,000 diameters, making visible bacteria and other things which the naked eye cannot see. However, to see atoms would require a microscope a billion times more powerful. Shadow pictures of atoms can be obtained by the use of x-rays with the spectroscopic, thus providing information about the arrangement of atoms in various substances. Molecular groups of atoms in rubber, for example, seem to stretch out in long strings, expanding and contracting like coiled springs.

Puerto Rican Industry
Three-fourths of Puerto Ricans are of white, the rest Negroes or of mixed blood. Spanish is the language of the people. English is common in business and government. Sugar production is easily the largest industry. Turned out normally at the rate of about a million tons a year, but accounts for other industries such as the manufacture of molasses and the distillation of rum and alcohol. The growing and processing of coffee, tobacco and citrus sugar in the island follow the production of sugar. The making of needlework and hand embroidery has increased in annual exports. Puerto Rican cigars and straw hats are known to continental Americans.

Improved Machinery

New Plow
A new plow designed by Oliver Corporation, Chicago, has additional bases set a few inches below and behind, as well as to one side of the upper bases. The latter are adjusted to normal depth for conventional plowing, while the lower bases, by widening and deepening the cut, crumble the plowman or hard underfoot, hitherto left untouched, mixing it slightly with the lower portion of the top soil.

New Poultry Disease
A new disease, known as 'Newcastle disease,' is being reported in many parts of the world, causing severe losses in poultry. It is a highly contagious disease, and is caused by a virus. The disease is characterized by a sudden onset of illness, with symptoms including depression, loss of appetite, and difficulty in breathing. It is often fatal, especially in young birds.

Fast Feathering Is Desirable in Poultry

Superior Broilers Are Rapid Developers
Early development of feathers by a chicken is a good indication that it will make a well-feathered and otherwise desirable broiler or fryer. This is the conclusion reached by research workers of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, after three years of scientific studies.

Prospects for superior market quality are still better if the chicken gains weight rapidly between the ages of 3 and 6 weeks and has a fairly broad breast at the end of that period.

These characteristics were found to be inherited. A poultryman, therefore, can improve his breeding stock by selecting those chickens that feather and develop rapidly during the first few weeks.

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Gasoline Storage

The best method of storing gasoline is in an underground tank having a gasoline pump similar to the equipment used in filling stations. The pump should be located well away from buildings; all tractors and other equipment having tanks should be connected with tanks brought to the pump. Gasoline tanks should be buried underground, with the top not less than 2 feet below the level of any connected piping. Tanks should not be turned under any roadways where heavy trucks or tractors may pass, unless a protective tank. Tanks, pumps and other equipment should be of approved types and installed in accordance with recognized standards.

Try a Classified Ad.
Rocks News
Rocks, Jan. 14.—Farm work is about at a standstill now.

Mrs. A. T. Anderson, who had a very bad cold, is able to get about again.

James R. Taylor and family are out again after having the flu.

Mrs. Jennie Baldwin spent Tuesday at the home of her sister, Mrs. James R. Taylor.

Set and Mrs. L. W. Williams are spending a few days at Pamplin with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Williams.

Mrs. Thomas Ranson and daughter, Mrs. Mary Ranson, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Meadows at Fry Ridge recently.

Holmesy, Jr., Jr., another one of our fine young men, has returned home from the Army with his honorable discharge.

Crestie Baldwin took her father to the theatre Thursday to see Dr. Smith.

Mrs. Rhony Wilson was hostess at the Rocks home for a social gathering Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Amos Kress and daughters went to Lynchburg Friday.

Quite a number from Rocks attended the Association of the Group Meeting at First Memorial Church Friday night.

Mrs. D. R. Inge was visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Inge, of Lynchburg over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Toby Inge spent Sunday at Evergreen with her mother, Mrs. A. J. Garrett.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Marsh received a notice that their grand daughter, Miss Audrey Pugh, and Jack Hamilton, of Kerville, Texas, were married during the holidays.

Herbert Goin was in Farmville last week selling tobacco.

C. S. Ranson and son, William, called in the home of A. A. Baldwin late Friday afternoon.

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